

HARRISONBURG DISTRICT



VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church

DISTRICT NEWS

November 2020 Issue 47-11

*A Newsletter of The Harrisonburg District
Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church*

From Your District Superintendent



On October 6, 1774, John Wesley met with those of the society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them the following:

- To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy.
- To speak no evil of the person they voted against, and
- To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.

As elections are upon us, it saddens me to see the way people treat one another. I am astonished at the way people speak to one another. I am discouraged at the attacks I see, and I am disgusted at the hatred shown to others simply because folks don't agree with "our" candidate. Certainly, the church is being polarized by what is taking place in politics, and we are mean to each other.

During charge conferences, I read a meditation written by Terry Teykl from a devotional booklet titled: "Praying the Lord's Prayer at Noon." In this devotional booklet, we are reminded of today's cultural rhetoric that aims to invert the very definitions of right and wrong, good and evil, honor and scorn, truth and deceit. It also reminds us that as Christians, we have been given the mind of Christ here and now. We are reminded that we must stand firm on the truths and reality of kingdom thinking.

Many of us will exercise our right and duty to cast our vote; I already did. As Christians and as God's church, we know we are better than the discourse that is taking place. We must set a good example as we have been given the mind of Christ. Vote your conscious, vote your values, and vote your principles, then follow the three advices from John Wesley, and pray for one another, and finally share God's love with one another. I also invite you to join Bishop Lewis in fasting and prayer for the healing of the nation from October 31 - November 2.

<https://vaumc.org/bishop-lewis-issues-prayer-and-fasting-for-the-healing-of-the-nation/>



"I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election and advised them,

1. To Vote, without fee or regard, for the person they judged most worthy;
2. To speak no evil of the person they voted against;
3. And, to take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side."

John Wesley

In God's Service,

*Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez
District Superintendent*

Have A Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving



Visit Harrisonburg District on Facebook: [Harrisonburg District of VaUMC](#)
Harrisonburg District webpage: www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org

From the District Director of Congregational Vitality - Gordon Meriwether

Is This Where I Sign Up?

In this time of exhaustion and turmoil, let us *"Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."* (Hebrews 12: 14)



In my upbringing, going to church was a requirement, not to fulfill the call to holiness necessarily, but rather to complete the checklist for qualifications of salvation. Nothing came of this mandated presence other than my mother's familia satisfaction of compliance with church dogma. But as is usual in the presence of God, where grace flows, holy accidents were bound to happen....so happened holiness.

In the 60's, outside the church the cultural upheaval in the cause of social justice, protests against the Vietnam War, the supporting draft, and rapidly changing morality provided more than enough confusion to derail the most stable of my futurist plans. Unlike my friends and family, I could never put to bed the search for meaning of life, or realize a direction with consistent purpose, or, for that matter, understand the calling that burned in my very soul. All through my younger days and professional career, the desires of the Spirit taunted me with the resolve of a hungry mosquito. I floated through denomination after denomination, with brief spiritual diversions into Buddhism and Taoism, always in search of the answer to my question of Divine purpose.

Then in 1985, I literally stumbled out of a Presbyterian Church into Messiah UMC in Northern Virginia and a mentor named Rev. Ray Chamberlain. I didn't realize it at the time, but Ray and the brothers and sisters of this Methodist congregation were together building the foundation for my holiness quest, filling in the spiritual holes, and loading me for the ministry. Through days of teaching and outreach, and pastoral care, I learned the rhythms of my heart and soul. I clearly heard the calling that had haunted my spirit; the call to ministry. Yet maturing as a follower of Christ through seminary and ministry, I somehow missed the "class" on holiness. I heard it in the wisdom of my instructors, in the preaching of my elders, and in the readings of long ago scholars, yet it didn't click. Even the stories of Wesley and The Holy Club didn't inspire me. Then, in the midst of this modern crisis of the spirit, I tripped and fell at the foot of the Throne in the shadow of the Cross with only the grace of God to lift me, realizing then that holiness was missing in action. Disgruntled and frustrated, I called out for mercy and understanding only to be advised by a family friend, the retired Anglican Bishop of Malawi, "So, Gordon, where is holiness in all this?"

My Lord, for years I have called out for Christian Perfection as my life goal, unashamedly, without hesitation....*this is the quest I chase!* But those are just the words of my past affirmations. *Now I see, my God, that without Grace, which is Your gift to me, and Holiness which is my gift to you, I will never reach Christian Perfection.* I will fall back to the checklist of old, to qualify somewhere between a good man and a good Christian man.

THE HOLY CLUB

No, Lord, that's not what we are called to be or do as ministers of the Word. Without striving for and embracing this Holiness, we will never achieve our goal for Christian Perfection. And this is not a proper ending for this book of life that we now scribe. So, let us take a page from our brothers at Oxford many years ago, who banded together to do God's work among the down trodden and dismissed, and do likewise under the Grace of God and the Holiness in our times, as members of this **The Holy Club**.

My brother and sisters, we need each other to complete our quest to Christian Perfection. We need to listen to our shared lessons and good counsel. So, let us once again join together in this **Holy Club** in this sacred journey of Grace and Holiness.

"Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'be holy, because I am holy.'"
(1 Peter 1: 15-16)

So Be It, Your Brother Gordon

PS. Any interest in starting/ forming our own **Holy Club**? Call/text me....



A challenge to Read the Bible in 2020

Bible Readings for November



Bishop Lewis has been encouraging clergy and laity of the Virginia Conference to read the Bible in a year since 2017. Each year has featured a different way of reading: 2017 read the Bible straight through; 2018 read the Bible chronologically; 2019 read the Bible in a blended style, a mixture of Old Testament readings and New Testament each day. For 2020, Bishop Lewis is challenging the entire conference to read the Bible all the way through with a thematic reading plan. The thematic plan is found on www.intentionalbygrace.com and Bishop Lewis has selected the following themes for 2020:

October 21 - November 10	(21 - day plan)	Mercy
November 11 - December 1	(21 - day plan)	Bearing Fruit
December 2 - December 23	(21 - day plan)	Cares of the World
December 24 - January 13	(21 - day plan)	Rest

There are 18 plans to cover this year. Each is 21 days long. Start at the beginning and work through the year (and a few days into January 2021). Challenge yourself to study the Bible and strengthen your faith in the process.

Tips on reading the Bible daily:

- * Start reading the Bible today.
- * Set aside a specific time and place each day. Set your schedule and then stick to it. Mornings are great, but feel free to use any time that works consistently in your schedule.
- * Get a good study Bible to help illuminate the meaning of the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek text
- * Choose a translation to use during your reading.
- * Say a short prayer to God before you begin, asking the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and understanding.
- * Dive in and enjoy the richness of God's Word! Apply God's Word to your life. Bible study should be practiced and applicable. These seven steps will help you begin a journey to becoming a "lifelong learner" of God's Word.

[resource: <http://www.vaumc.org/pages/bishop-Lewis/biblechallenge>]



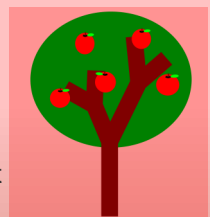
KINGSWAY'S BIG Milestone - Kingsway's data entry volunteer just listed the 3670th file into the computer of clients and families Kingsway has helped over the years and she still has more to enter.

Apple Tree celebrates 35 years.

CHRISTMAS is just around the corner and, as a result of Covid 19, Kingsway will be doing things differently. We need help more than ever on the Christmas projects and inmate gifts. Over 6,000 notepads and 6,000 lip balms have been ordered and will be arriving in November. Kingsway needs funds to pay for these. We also need toothpaste and pencils.

Email Louise at info@kingswayoutreach.org for details.

Pat also needs help with the Apple Tree project, which involves Christmas gifts for children of incarcerated parents. Some churches are not meeting, so there is a problem getting "apples" out to them. Others have expressed they can't even participate. You can reach Pat at kingswaypafo@gmail.com. Walmart, Target or McDonald's gift cards will be acceptable if you don't want to shop. Dollar Tree Gift cards will suffice for toothpaste purchases and we will do the shopping.



Keep us in prayer as we continue to work with re-entry and are anxious to get back in the prisons to do church services, but this may not happen until spring. Check our updated website: kingswayoutreach.org.

Harrisonburg District Finance Committee Announcement

We are happy to report that the Harrisonburg District is currently doing well financially. We applied for the Paycheck Protection Program loan (PPP) and obtained it. We now feel very comfortable offering **one month waived on your District Apportionments**, if eleven months have been paid in full. For those congregations that have already paid 100% of your District Apportionments and would like a refund, you should contact the District office, no later than December 1, 2020. **Please note this applies only to the District Apportionment part of the payments you make regularly to Conference Treasurer in Glen Allen.** You need to continue to move/pay toward making 100% of the priority 1 Conference Apportionments as shown on your monthly statement. If there are any questions, please contact me or the District Office.

Important Message!

Sue MacTavish, Chair Harrisonburg District Finance Committee
suemactavish@vaumc.org

Throughout the month of November - District PiM Zoom "Fresh Expressions" *

November 4 (Wednesday) - Clergy Ethics Training 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – online*

November 5 (Thursday) - District Executive UMW Committee meeting at Bridgewater UMC (In-Person and Zoom) 7:00 p.m.

November 10 (Tuesday) - Clergy Ethics Training 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – online*

November 14 (Saturday) - 2020 Lay Servant Academy - Zoom 8:45 a.m. *

November 14 (Saturday) - District UMW Meeting via Zoom 9:00 a.m. *

November 15 (Sunday) - Harrisonburg District Conference via ZOOM - 3:00 p.m.*

November 25 (Wednesday) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen & Harrisonburg District Office closes at 1:00 p.m. for Thanksgiving Observance

November 26-28 (Thursday - Friday) - VUMCenter-Glen Allen & Harrisonburg District Office closed for Thanksgiving Observance

December 10th (Thursday) - Clergy Ethics Training 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – online*

All events are subject to change. * Denotes related article elsewhere in this newsletter

UMW NEWS:

The District UMW held their Annual Meeting virtually on October 8th. Congratulations to all the units who were recognized for their work with the Reading Program, Living Into Our Purpose and Mission Giving, even during this difficult year. A big "Thank You" goes to Rev. Joel Robi-nette, for broadcasting the meeting from his church for the Keezletown UMW, as well as other district members in attendance. We appreciate his willingness to provide a safe place for those who weren't able to use zoom at home.



The District Executive Committee will hold it's final meeting for the year on **Thursday, November 5th**. We are planning to have an in-person meeting at **Bridgewater UMC, beginning at 7:00 p.m.** for those who are able to attend, and others can watch the meeting via Zoom. An invitation to join the Zoom meeting will be sent out to members of the committee before that time.

Our final district meeting for the year, "Looking Ahead Together," will be held **Saturday, November 14th, 9:00 am. on Zoom**. Our program will be on racial justice and we will look at the coming year. An invitation to join the meeting will be sent out to the executive committee and unit presidents. If you would like be a part of this meeting, please contact me with an e-mail address where I can send an invitation.

As we end this year, I would like to express my appreciate to all our members who have worked hard continuing to serve as they were able, even with the challenge of this pandemic.

Thanksgiving blessings, Sharon Harold

Harrisonburg DUMW President 540-879-2270 or sharold714@aol.com

Harrisonburg District Partners In Ministry (PiM) November Event - Video "People over Property"

For our PIM in November we are offering a recorded Fresh Expressions session with Bishop Ken Carter Jr (Florida Conference), titled "People over Property". Gordon Meriwether attended this session when it was offered earlier in the fall and found it very useful. The link, https://www.fxconnectus.org/welcome/video-single?content_id=318, will connect you with the Fresh Expressions site....use the following User ID and Password to log in and watch the video. After doing so please notify Shawna Hiner, Secretary, of your participation for credit toward the CEU.

User ID harrisonburgdistrict@vaumc.org Password: GodLovesMe1st!

There is also a book on which the video is based:

<https://freshexpressionsus.org/product/people-over-property/>





There's a saying I heard while I was on active duty in the Air Force, "When you're up to your eyeballs in alligators, it's difficult to remember our objective is to drain the swamp." That gem of down-home wisdom can appropriately be updated to, "When you're up to your eyeballs with (take your pick) Covid-19 / politics / education / work / etc., it's difficult to remember our objective is to make disciples of Jesus Christ."



We should never let the distractions of the world get in the way of our job as Christians and we all know there are plenty of distractions that vie for our attention. In his classic book, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, Steven Covey warns us against becoming a slave to the 'tyranny of the urgent'. The 'urgent' and the 'important' are as different as night and day. The important will still be important next month, next year, next decade, for the rest of our earthly lives – and extending into Eternity. The urgent? Not so much.

In Philippians 3:14 (NRSV), Paul says, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." Many times our problem is confusing the urgent and the important. The important? Only two things to remember: Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Love your neighbor as yourself. (Mark 12:30-31) Nothing is more important than these ...



Walk humbly with God; walk gently with your neighbor; and be at peace with yourself.

Joe Amend <>>

District Director of Lay Servant Ministries

A quick reminder of the VaUMC Lay Servant Training on November 14, 2020.

For information go to the following link: <https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=570337&>

ZOOM INFORMATION FOR DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Victor Gomez is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Harrisonburg District Conference
Time: Nov 15, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time
(US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/99938935853>

Meeting ID: 999 3893 5853
One tap mobile
8558801246,,99938935853# US Toll-free

Dial by your location
855 880 1246 US Toll-free
Meeting ID: 999 3893 5853
Find your local number:
<https://zoom.us/u/agm4P9COF>

Harrisonburg District Conference

Sunday, November 15, 2020 3:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

The Rev. Dr. Victor R. Gómez, District Superintendent, will preside over the District Conference, which will be held virtually this year.

Speaker: Rev. Courtney Joyner, Deacon

Music provided by: Rev. Laura Douglas, Retired Deacon

District Conference will take care of business in electing District members of Committees/Boards and elect District Members-at-Large to 2021 Annual Conference, but the emphasis of this conference will be a celebration of Deacons in the United Methodist Church. Deacons are ordained to a ministry of word, service, compassion and justice. Like elders they preach and teach and provide pastoral care, but they do not administer sacraments. They are

called to a ministry that brings the church into the world — and the world into the church.

In lieu of a district offering project this year, it is suggested you consider making a donation to your local church since we are unable to meet together. Come, join us on Zoom, as we celebrate the Harrisonburg District!

DISTRICT MEMBERS-AT-LARGE NOMINATIONS TO 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE will be elected at the District Conference

19 District Lay Members-at-Large
and 7 District Alternate Lay Members-at-Large.

THE UNITED METHODIST DEACON



MISSION CENTRAL NEWS

Check out our website prepared by Bev Earman:

<http://missioncentralharrisonburgva.com/mission-central/>

Mission Central Children's Clothes Closet

The Children's Clothes Closet just completed its first week of our Winter season. We saw 61 families and gave clothing or diapers to 161 children. We extended our hours on Wednesdays to help with our safety measure of only having 6 clients in at a time. Everything went very smoothly.



A big "Thank You," to the Bridgewater UMC Youth for helping sort and bag diapers. The Keezletown and Bridgewater UMW blessed us by their sock and underwear drives. Thank you to all who sent donations during Diaper Awareness Week. We have ordered and received a shipment. All of this shows how God is going before us and using our churches to meet the needs of our community in the difficult time.

Please consider volunteering and becoming an active part of Mission Central. May this outreach continue to bring honor and glory to our Heavenly Father.

Artie Frederick, Coordinator
540-208-7669



Equipment for Caring at Mission Central is open Mondays 9-11 AM and Thursdays 5-7 PM

for persons to get or donate medical equipment. We are in dire need of additional space to store our hospital beds since they presently take up a large

amount of our space in our loaner closet. If you have a clean, dry space where we can store these, please let me know. FYI: we have around 30 beds loaned out and presently have around 10 in our closet for those who may need them. If you or someone you know needs one, they can be picked up at our present location and I can show you how to set one up. We are not delivering these presently due to COVID. We ask that you wear a mask and practice physical distancing when coming to Mission Central. Thank you to all who have helped make this mission possible in our community and we continue to seek volunteers as well as your continued support with prayers and donations.

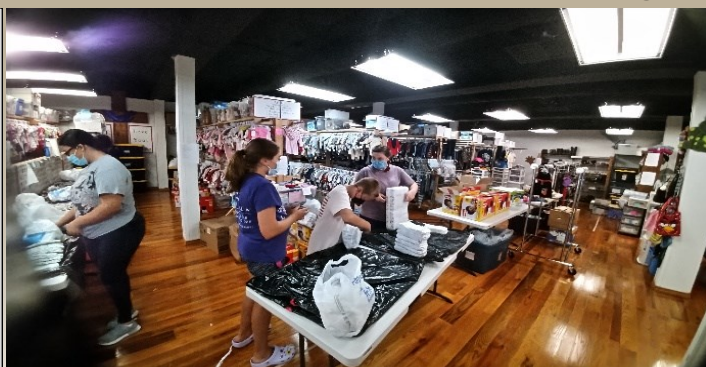
We continue to have available hospital beds, wheel chairs, shower chairs, bedside commodes, walkers and other medical equipment. Also available are disposables such as diapers, pullups, bed pads, sterile wound care supplies, ostomy and oxygen supplies.

Check us out on Facebook or our website at:

www.missioncentralharrisonburgva.com

or www.Harrisonburgdistrict.org/ministries

Please call Delores Reid, 540-383-6112, if you have any questions or concerns or would like to volunteer.



Saturday, September 26th, seven members of the Bridgewater UMC Youth visited Mission Central and helped fold clothes and pack hundreds of diapers for families in need in Harrisonburg.

In the top photo, pictured are Taylor Ann Joralemon, Audrey Hildebrand, Jacob Rawley, and Meghan Rawley packing diapers. In the bottom photo, Kim Joralemon is folding clothes.

Photos by Jonathan Lamb



A hideous sight, but I'm happy tonight
Watching church in just my underwear

"Undies Sunday" was held on October 11th at Keezletown UMC. Linda Liskey coordinated this effort for Mission Central. Some of the items collected were 88 pair of boys underwear, 36 pair men's underwear, 96 pair of girls underpants, 3 bralettes, 36 pair of boys and girls socks and 92 diapers, along with a cash donation!

Photos by Scott Sprague

PRAYER CALENDAR

Please add these requests to your daily prayer time throughout the month. The prayer calendar will continue through 2020.

November 2020

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1 For all the Saints/ Fasting and Prayer Daylight Savings Times Ends
2 For Presidential Candidates/Fasting and Prayer	3 For Election Day/ Fasting and Prayer	4 For the results of the Election	5 For your Church	6 For Your Pastor	7/8 For DS Gómez
9 For Bishop Lewis	10 For the United Methodist Church	11 For the control of COVID-19	12 For those who are facing a financial burden	13 For those who are facing cancer	14/15 For District Conference DISTRICT CONFERENCE
16 For creative ways to be the Church	17 For the Lay Leaders	18 For the Lay Speakers	19 For the Lay Servants	20 For Spouses	21/22 For our Children
23 For the Churches in the Harrisonburg District	24 For being able to Forgive	25 For your Job	26 Let Us Be Thankful THANKSGIVING	27 For Extended Family	28/29 For those who hurt us
30 For what is in your heart					

The Harrisonburg District extends its sympathies to the following on their loss:

Minister Edward Steele, Assistant on the Blue Ridge Charge, on the loss of his brother, Ricky Steele, from St. Mary's WV, age 63, who died on October 1, 2020 after a brief illness.

Mrs. Kathy Amend, wife of Pastor Joe Amend, clergy on the Shenandoah Charge, on the loss of her mother, Theresa Elizabeth Bliss, age 96. She died on October 4, 2020.



Four courses are being offered: I Love to Tell the Story, Older Adult Ministries, Online Worship, and the Spanish language class, Formacion Spiritual/Spiritual Formation.

Each course costs \$30.
Register at

www.vaumc.org/layservanttraining

The schedule is as follows:
8:45-9:00 Sign into Zoom
9:00-9:20 Opening worship
9:30-12:30 Part One of Course
12:30-1:00 Lunch Break
1:00-4:00 Part Two of Course

Each course will have a reading and written assignment due prior to the Academy. There will also be a post-assignment that will be due by November 28. Zoom links and assignments will be sent in October. Questions? Please contact Tianna Durbin, Lay Servant Academy Director, tiannad@arcolachurch.org.

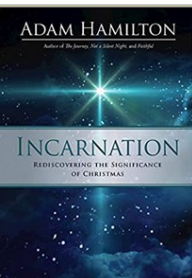


Cleaning buckets -9
School kits- 558
Hygiene kits - 326

Total collection for Kits for Conference for the Harrisonburg District

Total monetary value - \$11,325.00
Thank you to all the churches that contributed to this year's collection. They were delivered to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA on October 26th.

Brian Posey, Disaster Response Coordinator for the Harrisonburg District



Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas
by Adam Hamilton, 2020.

This new Adam Hamilton Advent Study just arrived from Cokesbury and is being rushed to our District Library shelves – Check it Out!

His parents gave him the name Jesus. But the prophets, the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels addressed him by other names. They called him Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh.

In *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*, Adam Hamilton examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth. In the face of uncertainty and conflict, this Advent season your congregation can reclaim the Christ Child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into the darkness. *Incarnation* is a stand-alone book, but works beautifully as a four-week Bible study experience perfect for all age groups during the Advent season. The Library has the hard cover book (available also in paperback at Amazon), Leader Guide, DVD, Youth Study Book and Children's leader Guide, and can be found in the Bible/ Bible Studies **section** (top two shelves) of the Library.

Stop by the District Office and “check out” the Library. Please remember to check out library items by signing the book card in pocket with your name and church and date – you may keep as long as you need – but remember to return when finished so that others may borrow. Thanks, Sue



COME ZOOM WITH US!

2020 LAY SERVANT ACADEMY

Virtual Training for Trying Times



SAT. NOV. 14, 8:45AM-4:00PM | COST \$30

COURSES OFFERED: I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY; ON-LINE WORSHIP; OR OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES

These courses provide renewal credit for Certified Lay Ministers. Clergy are invited to participate as we strengthen clergy-laity team efforts.

Register by Nov. 6 at www.vaumc.org/layservanttraining

Questions? Contact Tianna, tiannad@arcolachurch.org

From Sue MacTavish, District Librarian

November 2020 featured items:



Heart Havens has several exciting events coming up soon that we want to share.

Holidays at Heart Havens: Heart Havens takes pride in providing a joyful holiday for all our residents. There are people in our homes who would not otherwise receive gifts. Would you or your church or community group help us by sponsoring Christmas for a Heart Havens home with donations to buy gifts for the residents? Holiday donations allow staff closest to the resident to shop for items they know they will love, giving joy to our residents and staff. You can note "Christmas for Heart Havens" with your donation or contact us to learn more at jennifer.boyden@hearthavens.org.



Target Circle: We are honored and excited to be a part of the Target Circle program. Now through December 31, 2020, vote for us through the Target Circle program to help determine how Target's donation will be divided up. You can vote multiple times.

Giving Tuesday: Join us on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, a global day of unity and giving. Our goal for Giving Tuesday is to raise funds for urgent maintenance needs.

You will find more details as the event nears on facebook.com/heart.havens.

Worship Opportunities on the Harrisonburg District

Listing of churches who have returned to in-person, drive-in or other means of worship

Aisle 7 (Verona) ■ Asbury ■ Bethany ■ Bridgewater ■ Caplingers (Fulks Run) ■ Cedar Grove (Mountain Valley) ■ Cherry Grove (Singers Glen) ■ Christ (Shenandoah) ■ Clover Hill ■ Columbia Furnace ■ Dayton ■ Donovan Memorial (Singers Glen) ■ Edom (Fellowship-Linville-Edom) ■ Elkton ■ Evangelical ■ Fellowship (Fellowship-Linville-Edom) ■ Fields (Shenandoah) ■ First (Timberville) ■ Furnace (Blue Ridge) ■ Grottoes ■ Hensley (Blue Ridge) ■ John Wesley ■ Jollett (Blue Ridge) ■ Keezletown ■ Linville (Fellowship-Linville-Edom) ■ Luray ■ Manor Memorial ■ Massanutten Charge ■ McGaheysville ■ Mount Carmel (Fulks Run) ■ Mount Crawford (Mt Crawford-Mt Sidney) ■ Mount Jackson (Mt Jackson-Quicksburg) ■ Mount Olive ■ Mount Pleasant (Blue Ridge) ■ Mount Sidney (Mt Crawford-Mt Sidney) ■ Mountain Valley ■ Mount Horeb ■ Mount Pisgah ■ New Hope ■ Oak Level (Fort Valley) ■ Page ■ Parnassus ■ Quicksburg (Mt Jackson) ■ Riverside (Fulks Run) ■ Shenandoah Valley—Mount Zion (Strasburg) ■ Shenandoah Valley—Mount Zion (Woodstock) ■ St. James ■ Stanley ■ Strasburg ■ Sunset Drive (Broadway) ■ Toms Brook ■ Union Forge (Columbia Furnace) ■ Verona ■ Vision of Hope ■ Weyers Cave ■ White Chapel (Fort Valley) ■ Woodstock

Be sure to read the latest update on the Technical Assistance Manual (TAM) - updated on October 21, 2020. The Return to In-Person Worship Work Group, established by Bishop Lewis, placed three new documents on its conference web page including a modest revision to the Technical Assistance Manual. www.vaumc.org

This is now the fourth revision since the TAM's initial release in June. The three significant changes in this version include:

- 1) a provision for the use of paper bulletins when they are placed by masked and gloved volunteers 24 hours before the service,
- 2) guidance for Sunday school classes that want to meet at times adjacent to worship, and
- 3) a clarification on distancing seating in pews to ensure 6 feet of separation.

In addition, the Work Group has posted guidelines for recording and streaming sessions to encourage best practices in these settings. Also, there are some new ventilation recommendations.

The Work Group continues to meet regularly to review and consider revisions based on the feedback of United Methodists from all across Virginia. We are grateful for the perseverance of our churches and other ministries through this pandemic. Click here to take you to vaumc.org: Return to In-Person Worship page

A REMINDER THAT PASTORS NEED TO GET PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE DS BEFORE CONVENING WITH EITHER DRIVE-IN OR IN PERSON WORSHIP.

Bankruptcy Process Documents for Boy Scouts of America

Important Message

UPDATED October 28, 2020 — On October 26, 2020, the Conference sent out an email and a number of documents associated with the Boy Scouts of America ("BSA") bankruptcy process. Today, Bishop Lewis is providing additional guidance with the advice of the Conference Chancellor and various forms have been revised. Importantly, on October 27, 2020, CFA voted to approve the funds necessary to cover the legal expenses associated with the filing of the initial Proof of Claim by every

local church if that local church has now or has ever had a charter with the BSA. Remember, if the local church wants to work with the Bradley Firm, the local church needs to complete the documents mentioned in Bishop Lewis' letter and return those documents, via email, to bsa@vaumc.org **no later than November 2, 2020**.

The necessary documents are available at the bottom of the page at <https://vaumc.org/scoutingministries/>.



A DAILY PRAYER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

(The following prayer is offered by the Bishop's "Call to Action" Work Group on Racial Justice and Reconciliation. You are encouraged to pray the prayer daily.)

O loving God,
 We give you thanks for creating the world which is full of diversity
 and for making one human family of all the peoples of the earth.
 You reign over all the nations and are seated on your holy throne.
 You rule over all the peoples without partiality in respect to nations or races
 because righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.
 Forgive us for the times when we put walls around us with
 false pride and racial prejudice.
 Forgive us for the times when we were silent in the face of racism,
 private or institutional.
 Open our eyes to see Christ who is in people of every nation and every culture.
 Break down the walls that separate us. Set us free from fear, hatred, and racism.
 Bind us together with the unity of God's love.
 Restore oneness to the family of God.
 We pray in the name of Jesus who came, lived, and died for all humanity.
 Amen.

Share Stories of Racial Justice on Conference Website

Bishop Sharma Lewis issued a call to action against systemic racism on May 29, 2020. Send your stories about racism to BrendaCapen@vaumc.org for posting.



DISTRICT NEWS

Harrisonburg District
 Virginia Annual Conference
 United Methodist Church

40 South Gate Court ♦ Suite 101
 Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Office Phone: (540) 433-2382
 Call/Text DS: (202) 285-5767

Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez
 District Superintendent
HarrisonburgDS@vaumc.org

Rev. Gordon K. Meriwether
 District Director of Congregational Vitality
GordonMeriwether@vaumc.org

Deborah Foley Creech
 Executive Administrative Assistant
harrisonburgdistrict@vaumc.org

Harrisonburg District on the web at
www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org
 Harrisonburg District on Facebook at
[Harrisonburg District of VaUMC](https://www.facebook.com/HarrisonburgDistrictofVaUMC)
 Virginia Conference on the web at
www.vaumc.org

UMFS December offering New Resources Now Available

United Methodist Family Services (UMFS) is the Virginia Conference designated offering for December. UMFS deeply appreciates the support of local churches in this ministry, helping high-risk children create a brighter future. We have created a variety of digital assets to support the offering this year, and help you share the work of the ministry with your congregation. You can find the following resources at www.UMFS.org/church: 4 short videos, an electronic bulletin insert, church offering scripts, and images for newsletters, emails, social media, and websites. Please contact Jill Gaynor (jgaynor@umfs.org or 804-254-9463) with any questions. Thank you for your support!



VAUMC QUADRENNIAL CLERGY ETHICS TRAINING

Dr. Sondra Wheeler, Wesley Theological Seminary

THE MINISTER AS MORAL THEOLOGIAN

In light of on-going gathering restrictions, the Quadrennial Clergy Ethics Training – The Minister as Moral Theologian – has been adapted into a series of asynchronous and synchronous video sessions.

Participants will register for the live training date that is most convenient and will complete the asynchronous portions prior to attending that session. Clergy in districts where this training did not travel to, or clergy who were not able to attend a local training event, now have the opportunity to participate without the restriction of travel. If you were Licensed for Pastoral Ministry, or otherwise received your first appointment in Virginia, beginning July 1, 2017 - your participation in the Basic Ethics 101 and 102 courses exempts you from this required training. You are most welcome and we encourage you to attend if you are able.

Registration is open for the following live training dates. Four days prior to the live event, pre-recorded video segments and resources will be emailed to you. This asynchronous work is required prior to attending the live training.

Events begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 4, 2020
Tuesday, November 10, 2020
Thursday, December 10, 2020
One date TBD in February 2021

Attendance is required only once a quadrennium.

Details and registration are available from <https://na.eventscloud.com/ehome/269796>

This is mandatory for Clergy.